

# City View

WINTER 2017-18



## New Foundry Vision Increases Space for Community Programs



The City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) will invest \$26-\$31 million to redevelop the Foundry building, at 101 Rogers Street in East Cambridge, into a community resource suitable for a wide range of activities, with universally accessible, high quality spaces. The building was acquired by the City in 2012 as part of a zoning agreement with Alexandria Properties.

The City and the CRA have been working closely since 2015 to redevelop the 53,000 square foot building, with the intention of selecting a private developer to redevelop and operate the facility. In 2017, they proposed a revised strategy to redevelop the building in a way that could better meet the vision and expectations that resulted from an extensive community process. As a publicly financed capital project, approximately 60% of the building will be designed to accommodate a mix of community programming and uses, including arts, cultural, educational, and makerspaces. Through ongoing collaboration, the Foundry building is moving closer to becoming a truly special place for the entire community. The design process is expected to start in early 2018, with construction starting in 2019. For more information visit: [www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/foundry](http://www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/foundry).

## City Manager's Message



Louis DePasquale, City Manager

On December 6, 2016, just a few weeks after I was sworn in as City Manager, our City experienced a horrific 10-alarm fire. The community's collective efforts since that day to support the people of the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood is a reminder of what makes Cambridge an amazing city: a highly professional government and a tightly knit community. It was an honor to attend the groundbreaking in October for the rebuilding of the 16-unit affordable housing development at 50 York Street, which was destroyed by the fire just 10 months prior.

Also in October, the City Council approved the City's most significant rezoning in recent years – the MIT Volpe Petition. This achievement will result in the transformation of a 14-acre parcel of land in the heart of Kendall Square that has seen little change in over 45 years and is isolated from the surrounding area. MIT, through a partnership with the Federal government, will construct a new building for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center, along with new commercial and residential buildings and connections to the surrounding area. The development will include 280 units of affordable housing, 20 units of middle income housing, at least two acres of open space, retail at the ground floors, "innovation space" to support smaller companies, and a community center.

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Once completed, the project is expected to generate \$8.5 million for transit improvements, \$8.5 million to the City's Community Benefits Fund, \$26 million to the City's Affordable Housing Trust, and \$23 million annually in property taxes. MIT has also committed to increase on-campus housing for an additional 950 graduate students and to provide over \$36 million toward public benefits including the community center, a jobs connector program, and construction of the Grand Junction Multi-Use Path on MIT-owned properties. This will be a transformational project for the City.

As part of the City's Vision Zero efforts and Complete Streets approach to mobility, we lowered the City's default speed to 25 MPH and installed 1.1 miles of new protected bike lanes. As we evaluate how bicycle facilities can best work in Cambridge, the City is working closely with residents, business owners, neighborhood associations, the bike community, and universities to fine-tune these projects. We will continue to make it safe and easy for people of all ages and abilities to travel between work, school, retail stores, and other destinations, whether they choose to walk, bike, drive, or take transit.

As a City, we are committed to supporting and promoting the safety, health, and well-being of all of our residents and providing services to all, regardless of their immigration status. This summer, our Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship hired a new Outreach & Referral Specialist

who will work with immigrant families to get them more involved in the community and connect them to a wide range of available City services.

Finally, before the end of the year, we will be approving the 1000<sup>th</sup> inclusionary housing unit, marking a significant milestone in the City's efforts to create new affordable housing. Inclusionary housing, which requires developers to incorporate affordable units into new residential buildings, has been one of the greatest generators of affordable housing in Cambridge. Inclusionary housing is built without public funding, and the City's inclusionary housing stock now represents more than \$500 million in private investment.

The feedback and public participation we receive from Cambridge residents and businesses helps us remain an exciting and responsive community. You are always welcome to send your comments or ideas by calling my office at 617-349-4300 or emailing me at [citymanager@cambridgema.gov](mailto:citymanager@cambridgema.gov).

Warmest Regards,

*Louis DePasquale*  
Louis DePasquale

## Participatory Budgeting: Cast Your Vote Dec. 2-8

Cambridge residents age 12 and older are invited to decide how the City will spend \$800,000 to improve Cambridge by voting for your favorite Participatory Budgeting (PB) projects between December 2-8, 2017.

As in years past, there are 20 worthy projects on the ballot and voters can choose up to 5. You can vote online at [pb.cambridgema.gov](http://pb.cambridgema.gov) or in person at multiple events around the city. Any Cambridge resident who is at least 12 years old – including university students and non-US citizens – is eligible to vote in PB.

To learn more about PB, view projects on the ballot, or sign up for email updates, visit [pb.cambridgema.gov](http://pb.cambridgema.gov), or contact the City's Budget Office at 617-349-4270 or [pb@cambridgema.gov](mailto:pb@cambridgema.gov).

REAL MONEY | REAL PROJECTS | REAL POWER



## Want to Give Back to Your Community?

### Serve on a City Board or Commission

Over 500 Cambridge residents are directly involved in the decision-making process in Cambridge through their participation on one or more of the City's 51 boards and commissions.

Serving on a board or commission is a rewarding experience and an excellent way to contribute to the quality of life of your community. We rely greatly on the interest and involvement of these volunteers who seek a more active role in the functioning of our local government.

Different types of boards and commissions in the City have different levels of decision making authority. Many boards and commissions make important recommendations on actions

by the City. For example, this past fall, the City launched a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity cultural competency and customer



service training for all employees, largely based on a recommendation from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission.

Most appointments to boards and commissions are made by the City Manager. City residency is usually a prerequisite and every attempt is made to maintain a balanced and diverse representation on all boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving on a City board or commission, check the currently advertised vacancies online at [cambridgema.gov/apply](http://cambridgema.gov/apply). Most meetings of boards and commissions are also open to the public, and welcome comments and participation. For more information, visit: [cambridgema.gov/Services/boardsandcommissions](http://cambridgema.gov/Services/boardsandcommissions).

# Greening City Buildings and Vehicles

We are continuously looking for opportunities to further our climate protection goals, and our efforts are advancing the City's Net Zero Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our building operations and vehicle fleet.



## ***The Road to Net Zero***

The City's first near Net Zero building, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Putnam Avenue Upper Schools (above), was recently awarded the 2017 Green Showcase Building of the Year. Designed by Perkins Eastman, and targeting LEED for Schools Platinum, the MLK project was recognized not only for its impressive and significant list of sustainable features, but also for its altruistic impact on education and the immediate surrounding community. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green building certification system by the U.S. Green Building Council. With one year of operating data collected, MLK performed 12% better than predicted, and its actual Energy Use Intensity is over 65% better than the average school in New England. The design of this building, completed in December 2015, became a benchmark of success within Cambridge's commitment to a Net Zero future.

## ***Designing with Leading Edge Technology***

Expected to be the City's first Net Zero emissions project, the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper Schools (top right), will include a JK-5 Program, a Lower and Upper School Program, Community School and Afterschool programs. Additionally, the redesigned Valente Branch Library, Gold Star Public Pool, and Cambridge School Department's administrative offices will be located in this facility. It will also include 2 gyms, a 400 seat auditorium, cafeteria, performing arts spaces, and an underground parking garage for 105 vehicles. The design of this



273,000 square foot facility, which is anticipated to open in September 2019, resulted in over 1 acre of additional green space on the site.

"Each one of these projects, including the Cambridge Rindge & Latin School completed in 2012, MLK, and the King Open – was designed with the best known leading edge energy technology available at the time," explained Construction Program Manager Michael Black. "All of these buildings are very energy efficient, but because of how the design programming and technology has evolved, each one is very unique to itself. Lessons learned on each project have enhanced the next design."

## ***Maximizing Energy Performance***

The City of Cambridge continues to engage in a variety of new initiatives to improve the sustainability of its municipal operations. A recent grant of \$250,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division will enable the Public Works Department to implement a vehicle hybrid retrofit project to help increase fuel efficiency and make energy efficiency upgrades in the Lombardi building at 831 Massachusetts Avenue.

The City and Cambridge Public Schools have collaborated closely on implementing sustainable practices on construction and renovation projects, such as the ones mentioned above. These efforts were recognized earlier this year when Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (CRLS) earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® Certification for Superior Energy Performance for 2017, outperforming 94% of school buildings nationwide.

"This is a great achievement for our City and Cambridge Public Schools and demonstrates how important sustainable practices are," said City Manager Louis A. DePasquale.

# Parking App Makes Paying Meters Easier



The City is always working to provide a customer-friendly experience to its residents, businesses, and visitors and the Passport Parking application enables drivers to quickly and conveniently pay parking fees from their phones. The mobile pay program, available in Central and Harvard Square, will be expanded citywide to on-street metered spaces and City owned lots by the end of 2017.

Through the app, users can purchase parking

time using a debit/credit card; monitor their session; and extend their stay remotely (up to maximum allotted time).

The Passport Parking app is free to download from the iPhone App Store and Android Google Play. The ParkBoston app can also be used to pay for parking in Cambridge. Users can manage their parking online at [www.ppprk.com](http://www.ppprk.com). For more information, visit [cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://cambridgema.gov/traffic).

# Winter Season Tips and Reminders

**Register for City Alerts: [CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork](http://CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork)**

**Stay Updated: [City of Cambridge Snow Center, CambridgeMA.gov/snow](http://City of Cambridge Snow Center, CambridgeMA.gov/snow)**

While we don't know what the winter season will bring, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is prepared to work with residents and businesses to make the City's roadways and sidewalks as safe and passable as possible. We have acquired several new pieces of equipment to help with snow operations this winter. Our goals are to chemically treat all major arteries within three hours of when snow begins, to keep main arteries plowed during all stages of a storm, and to clear all streets and the sidewalks bordering City property once a storm has stopped.

The City provides salt for use by residents in several locations. Please be considerate and take only what you need to get through the current snow or ice event. For Salt Barrel locations, visit [cambridgema.gov/snow](http://cambridgema.gov/snow).



## **What You Can Do**

Help us, help your elderly neighbors, and help the entire community by keeping your sidewalks, nearby fire hydrants, and catch basins free of snow and ice. It's the neighborly thing to do, and it's the law.

- Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property or business within 12 hours after it stops falling in the daytime, and before 1 p.m. when it has fallen overnight.

- Remove or melt all ice within 6 hours of the time it forms. Paths on shoveled sidewalks must be wide enough for wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers (3-4 feet wide).
- Corner properties must also clear sidewalks on all sides and clear ramps at crosswalks.

Even if you aren't around, it is your responsibility to ensure someone clears sidewalks and ramps next to your property. The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinances is \$50/day for each day of non-compliance.



### Storm Updates and Parking Information

Visit the City of Cambridge Snow Center, [CambridgeMA.gov/snow](http://CambridgeMA.gov/snow), for information and updates about snow emergency parking restrictions and off-street parking locations. Even if no snow emergency has been declared, please follow these general on-street parking guidelines:

- Park at least 20 feet from street corner so plows can push snow away from crosswalk. Parking away from the corner improves visibility and safety year-round.
- It is illegal in Cambridge to use space savers to hold a cleared parking space; objects left in on-street parking spaces will be removed.
- Think safety: dig out fire hydrants and street drains while digging out your car.
- When digging out your car, think about how you pile snow: don't create new problems in the street or sidewalk.



- Please don't take it personally if plows push snow back into your driveway or parked car. This may be unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.

### Snow Exemption Program and Shoveling Assistance

Low income residents who are elderly or have a disability may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program. For more information, call the Cambridge Council on Aging, 617-349-6220 (voice) or 617-349-6050 (TTY). If you do not qualify, the Council on

Aging can provide you with a limited list of professional snow removal companies and students who will shovel for a fee to be negotiated.

Register to receive Snow Emergency Parking Ban notifications via phone, text, or email at [CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork](http://CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork), or follow us on Twitter at @CambMA and Facebook at CambridgeMA.Gov. The City is utilizing the hash tag #CambMASnow on Twitter to help the public follow the conversation. For updates, visit the City's Snow Center, [CambridgeMA.gov/Snow](http://CambridgeMA.gov/Snow).



## COMMONWEALTH CONNECT

### Easily Report Issues with Commonwealth Connect



See sidewalks that need shoveling or streets that need clearing?

**Reporting an issue takes only a minute and helps make our streets and sidewalks safer.**

**Download the free app for iPhone or Android, or visit:**



**[CambridgeMA.GOV/CommonwealthConnect](http://CambridgeMA.GOV/CommonwealthConnect) to report online.**

# A Comprehensive Look at the State of the City

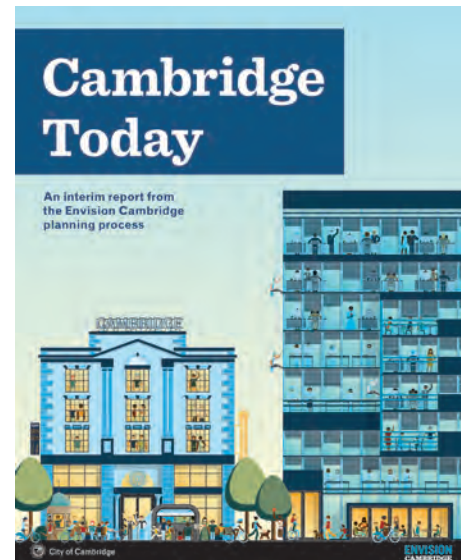
## Envision Cambridge Releases *Cambridge Today* Report

*Cambridge Today* is a comprehensive report that examines the State of the City, highlighting existing City policies and early findings from Envision Cambridge's public engagement process. The recently published report identifies key issues and opportunities facing the City, including increasing housing prices and a changing climate.

According to the report, approximately two-thirds of Cambridge residents are renters, and rents grew by 46% between 2006 and 2015. The detailed demographic information indicates that almost half of Cambridge residents are between 18 and 34 years old; and about 28% are foreign-born. Over 200 individuals, including staff from departments throughout the City, members of Cambridge nonprofit organizations, business associations, neighborhood groups, and Envision Cambridge working group members, contributed to the publication of this report.

Launched in 2015, Envision Cambridge is a community-wide process to develop a comprehensive plan for a more livable, sustainable, and equitable Cambridge. With input from those who live, work, study, and play in our city, Envision Cambridge has been working to create a shared vision for our future. The analysis presented in *Cambridge Today* has informed the Envision Cambridge working group discussions and contributed to their proposals of draft goals related to housing, economy, mobility, and climate & environment.

Visit [envision.cambridgema.gov](http://envision.cambridgema.gov) to download *Cambridge Today*. Print copies are also available at the City Hall Annex (344 Broadway) and Cambridge Public Library branches.



## Curbside Composting Expanding Citywide

**In April 2018, all Cambridge households in buildings with 12 units or less will receive materials to begin participating in the City's curbside composting program.**

"Approximately 40% of Cambridge's trash is food waste and compostables," said Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner of Public Works.

"Through this program, residents will be able to divert food scraps and more to reduce impact on the environment."

In 2014, the Department of Public Works (DPW) began a curbside composting pilot with 600 households and expanded that pilot to 5,200 households in 2015. Following the citywide expansion this spring to more than 25,000 households, an estimated 2,000 tons of food scraps could potentially be diverted annually from landfills and incinerators. The goal of the curbside composting program is to reduce waste, control trash costs, and reduce our impact on climate change.

From March-April 2018, residents in buildings with 12 units or less should expect to see the following delivered to their home:

1. One curbside composting bin per building;
2. One kitchen composting bin per unit (or household);
3. A 6-month supply of compostable bags;
4. Instructions and information to begin participating.

Prior to receiving these materials, the City will notify residents via a postcard or mailing of when to expect the bins to be delivered.

The curbside bin will be collected weekly in a separate truck from your trash and recycling on your scheduled pick-up day. All food scraps and other compostables (paper towels and napkins, for instance) will be anaerobically digested to generate electricity, heat, and fertilizer.



In 2009, the City of Cambridge established waste reduction goals aimed at reducing trash 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. As of 2016, Cambridge has reduced trash by 23%.

As the April 2018 expansion date approaches, residents are encouraged to sign up for the monthly newsletter from Public Works to get updates on the expansion and other waste-related programs. For more information, email [Recycle@CambridgeMA.Gov](mailto:Recycle@CambridgeMA.Gov) or sign up for updates at [CambridgeMA.gov/CompostPickup](http://CambridgeMA.gov/CompostPickup).

# Engaging Cambridge Veterans

Since its opening about 18 months ago, the Veterans' Life and Recreation Center (VLRC) has helped nurture a culture of healthy socialization and provided a sense of community support for Cambridge veterans and clients in a safe space.

Located within the City's Department of Veterans' Services, on the second floor at 51 Inman St., the VLRC serves as a unique place for veterans to meet, interact, and learn. Scheduled health and life skills programming at the VLRC has included a writers workshop, financial management, and life coaching. The VLRC room includes furniture to relax, a kitchenette to prepare food, a computer work station, an amplified telephone for the hard of hearing, various books, board games, and information on restorative therapies and employment.

The first-ever Veterans' Appreciation Week in November 2017, offered acupuncture, massage, meditation, and a benefits drop-in session with refreshments.

As a young Cambridge LGBT resident, Gianna Stewart, said her experience as a female veteran had been especially frustrating, but the Veterans' Services' staff and the VLRC offered her comfort, relief and a "sense of belonging."

Stewart added, "At the VLRC, we feel as though we are home finally, and there are people who care about us and are willing to



Cambridge veteran Gianna Stewart. Photo: Kate Flock

take the time to understand what we're going through."

As veterans, Stewart said, they have been trained to survive. Stewart said she continues to fight every day, and she credits Veterans' Services and the VLRC for helping her help herself.

As part of its ongoing efforts to further engage with Cambridge veterans upon their return from service, the City's Veterans' Services Department formed the Cambridge Women's Veterans Organization. The group held its inaugural



Cambridge veteran Marty Levin utilizes the VLRC regularly.

meeting in June of this year during a visit with Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons.

During the gathering, Mayor Simmons encouraged the group to continue to meet and share their stories which she said were important to our history and our future as a society. Since that initial meeting, the group has participated in several workshops and is working on setting goals for the coming year. For more information, contact Cambridge Veterans' Services as 617-349-4760 or [veterans@cambridgema.gov](mailto:veterans@cambridgema.gov).

## What Type of Food Trucks Would You Like in Cambridge

### Voting Period Begins in January 2018

The City of Cambridge is launching a Food Truck Pilot program as part of an effort to support local food entrepreneurs and enliven public spaces. Food trucks, which can bring a more robust food selection to certain



areas of Cambridge, will operate April through October 2018 at the following locations:

- Central Square / City Hall (795 Mass. Ave.)  
Weekend Dinner: 8 p.m. – 12 a.m. (Thursday – Saturday)
- Cambridgeport (Sydney St. at Erie St.)  
Weekday Lunch: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- Kendall Square (Main St. at Ames St.)  
Weekday Lunch: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
- North Point Park (Education St.)  
Weekend Lunch & Dinner: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (Saturday – Sunday)

You can vote on food truck scheduling at select locations and shifts through the People's Choice Poll, which opens in January 2018. Food truck schedules will be announced in February 2018. For more information, visit [cambridgema.gov/foodtruckpilot](http://cambridgema.gov/foodtruckpilot).





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*City Manager Louis A. DePasquale*

*Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson*

**City Council:**

*Mayor E. Denise Simmons*

*Vice Mayor Marc C. McGovern*

*Councillor Dennis J. Carlone*

*Councillor Leland Cheung*

*Councillor Jan Devereux*

*Councillor Craig A. Kelley*

*Councillor David P. Maher*

*Councillor Nadeem A. Mazen*

*Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.*

## New City Law Regulates Short-Term Rental Properties



### Registration with Inspectional Services Required by April 1, 2018

The Cambridge City Council adopted a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, which goes in effect April 1, 2018, and regulates the rental of property for transient housing (stays up to

30 days). Cambridge residents who meet eligibility requirements and wish to use their residential property for short-term rental must register with the City's Inspectional Services Department by April 1, 2018.

Platforms such as Airbnb®, Home Away™, and others have made the short-term rental of bedrooms or whole dwelling units a popular travel accommodation option, particularly in urban areas where hotel prices can be very high. Research shows that Cambridge has hundreds of

short-term rental units available. Just like other types of lodging houses and hotels, short-term rentals will also be required to comply with building code, life safety regulations, and health and hygiene standards. In order to qualify for a short-term rental certificate, which is valid for five years or until change of property ownership, the respective dwelling unit or bedroom must also be inspected by a City Inspector. Additionally, the operator of a short-term rental must live in or adjacent to the unit, as described in the new ordinance. For more information, visit [CambridgeMA.gov/Shorttermrentals](http://CambridgeMA.gov/Shorttermrentals).

## 2017 Resident Parking Permits Expire Jan. 31

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to renew your 2017 Resident Parking Permit, which expires on Jan. 31, 2018. The winning entry from the 2018 Resident Permit Photo Contest was submitted by David Myers. For more information, call 617-349-4700 or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/rpp](http://www.cambridgema.gov/rpp).

